

Re: 3:45 OPS presser readout

From: "Astravas, Zita" <zita.astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
To: "Williams, Caroline" <caroline.williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
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Date: Fri, 18 Feb 2022 21:21:28 +0000

Please send to boss

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2022, at 4:10 PM, Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca> wrote:

Bell

- * The operational plan is moving ahead as expected
- * Thanks to police forces from across Canada – support and resources have been invaluable
- * Continue to be in control of situation on ground, here to see things through to a safe ending
- * Began moving officers and equipment into key locations last night, set up 100 checkpoints in secure area
- * Yesterday arrested some key officials responsible for organizing these activities
- * First focused on Nicholas St area
- * Even this morning all unlawful protestors were given many opportunities to leave
- * Officers then moved to Rideau/Sussex
- * As of 3PM, 70 people arrested, offences include mischief
- * City of Ottawa helping to clean up area gained back
- * Have seen children on site, prepared to ensure children are unharmed
- * We are focused on ensuring people of Ottawa get their city back

Q: I was out at Rideau, Mackenzie – many officers of different units are pushing people westbound on Wellington. It's getting late – what's the plan now?

A: We have a very deliberate and methodical plan to see this through. Thank you to police chiefs across the country who have dedicated resources to staff this plan.

We indicated from beginning would need to move slowly, safely, to protect Charter rights as we move to demobilize this demonstration.

Q: What has it been for officers out there, engagement with protestors?

A: Officers have been exceptionally professional all day, have executed plan very well. Officers experienced taunts, slurs hurled at them but remain professional.

Q: Have officers had to help Children's Aid remove children?

A: We said yesterday we had plans and were working with OCA. Hoped didn't have to use them. Have not seen need yet to interact with Aid yet. Despite plans, continues to shock and amaze me that children are involved in this situation. Parents: get your children out of here, not a safe place.

Q: Is this posture throughout long weekend?

A: We started this operation, have talked about increasing operations. We will continue to execute plan until residents get their streets back.

Q: Have seen police officers from various forces, how are they being used?

A: Won't disclose operational #s, level of cooperation with police services across ON and CAN unprecedented and amazing. Very proud of mobilization to end this demonstration.

Q: Have seen tear gas being brought in – are you planning to use it?

A: We've developed a well-articulated plan. Working with protestors to encourage them to leave. They can
We have developed a plan to ensure ultimate removal of protestors from streets.

Q: Did police use any powers under EA to make any arrests? Vs Ontario EA powers?

A: Three levels of government actions have led us to have the success we're seeing right now. City, provincial, federal emergency declarations have all allowed us to use new and existing powers. Without the authorities provided to us through these, would not be able to do the work we're doing today.

Q: Images and videos of some violence, hitting between protestors and police. Have there been any injuries so far?

A: No injuries to protestors, one injury to police, minor that has been treated.

Q: Estimate of how many protestors are still here?

A: Not providing numbers at this time as operation moves ahead.